(13 April 1906
(Good Friday)

Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
Uckfield.

Friday.

Beloved Monkey.

I'm afraid you will be rather cross at not hearing from me before. but I feared when I asked about the posts today that the only one had already gone - & that there was no other till early tomorrow morning. So this shall go then, I am hoping to hear from you but I suppose these nasty Bank Holidays will interfere.

I had an awful crush at Victoria yesterday. but with wonderful prudence I had allowed nearly an hour to catch my train. One could hardly get into the station. & no porters were to be had. However I managed with some skill to get myself & my luggage

the right platform - while
waiting there for the train who
should appear but Elena & Mr.
Rathbone. also going to Forest
Row - However in the crowd I
thought well to lose them - as
I felt sure they would go 1st class
which would lead to awkwardness.
so I did not see them again
till Forest Row - where I found
Lord R. waiting with the motor.
He & Nelly were alone last night
but I am fated to meet Bishops.
Today the Bishop of Stepney
has arrived - but goes again
tomorrow. I suppose me is
prejudiced against the Church.
not that I dislike him. He is

quite nice - but tainted or so
I imagine. However I have
hardly seen him yet. This
morning I just started the
portrait. But as I told you
I see I shall do hardly any
work. Lord R. went to church
& sat only for a very short time
on his return. Tomorrow I
suppose he will have the Bishop
& on Sunday will go to church
again. It's a bore - especially
as he doesn't sit at all even
when he is sitting. If you
understand. But it ought
to be difficult to do a character
head which I suppose
is all Kelly wants. She has
a really fine head - also a
most extraordinary flexible
nose which he waggles at Kelly
like an ape might. They
are a very nice couple really.

& fairly easy to get on with on the whole. Today Kelly took me to tea with the Herbert Pauls. He at once asked me with a benign smile if I had anything in the literary supplement this week. I stupidly did not hear what he said. but catching something vague about the lit. sup. said I hadnt seen it lately. He evidently thought me quite cracked at this. so I pulled myself together & realized what he meant & explained at length that I was I & you were you & that I didnt indulge in literature - It was evidently a great blow to him & he had nothing more to say to me Mrs Paul & the daughters were there too & it was rather alarming with both Kelly & Mrs Paul quite deaf.

NYPL

Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
Uckfield.

Now Billy, tell me truly. Are you getting any food? & are you going out? & are you going to bed according to your solemn oath? & in fact generally being sensible? also what is happening about furs? I am in the lap of luxury here as you may imagine. With a fire in my room & open windows everywhere. I shall grow fat & lazy - for I do no work & I'm sure you work hard all the morning. Nelly is charming. I have given her your thing & to read but have not yet heard what

the thinks of them. She inquired with interest today what you did when you went away about your hair & dressing yourself-! I told her you had no natural instinct that way & she said it was very odd- She believed that when animals were born without some instinct common to their kind it meant that they were either half imbecile or geniuses do you see Billy. I always did think you ought not to be allowed out loose. She seemed interested in your habits but didnt actually say you were a genius but then wont interest him. No doubt I shall hear

more on the subject when she returns your words.

Beatrice's maid has got diphtheria which is the reason she hasn't come. She is staying in London -

Do write me a nice long letter my monkey & tell me all about your doings. Are you happy & comfortable or are your lodgings very beastly?

This is a mighty dull letter but all is dull & prosperous with me -

Your Mama.

Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
Uckfield.

Saturday

Beloved William.

No letter from you yet. I hope I may possibly get one tomorrow. I am living the most lazy, sensual & precise existence here. I wish I thought you were doing the same. Nelly always has breakfast in bed. (Lord R. dresses & come down till late. So this morning I had breakfast alone with the Bison. who after all isn't bad & took a lot of trouble to be polite to me. asking after my painting & conversing about art to suit his company.

I have promised to send him a card for whichever show the portrait of Lord R goes in. So we shall probably have a private View at the Friday Club. The portrait gets on slowly. I did hardly anything today. I went for a walk with Nelly. I find on knowing her better that she is really quite critical of people. She doesn't at all like Ozzy & thinks him common, place & vulgar. Though she does also think him kind & unselfish. I think she is really pretty clear sighted about people.

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I think Lord R- is in an odd way a bit of a genius - (not of course in the way my Billy is -). But he is really remarkably acute - (very critical. I like people to be critical if they are also sympathetic. He has no feeling whatever for art - but he is the only person I have met in whom I don't at all mind it. All he says is very much to the point (I think there is a great deal more in him than comes out at first. I feel a hopeless fool here - ignorant & badly educated - However it can't be helped. It's what I am -

Nelly was reading your MSS - this evening - but I have had no chance of talking to her since. Perhaps tomorrow I shall hear what she thinks. It is odd staying with people like this. I have never done it before for more than a week end - except of course with George in Rome but I thank goodness that & this have no points of likeness. I do long to know how you are getting on Billy. & how is my angel? Do you get meat twice a day & anything else? or are you not at Rapallo, as I fear is likely. Take care of your bones - my letters are deadly but I want a good example from you to inspire me - your mama.

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Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
Uckfield.

Sunday.

Beloved Billy.

A nice long letter from you this morning which I read at my solitary breakfast. You certainly are rather a genius - don't you think so? Of course I don't. Naughty Billy. To get up a flirtation in the train. You really aren't safe to be trusted alone. I know some lady will get a written promise of marriage out of you soon. I often wish you'd take? It was lucky you had work to do after your - I continue very peaceful & lazy existence here. You

instincts are all wrong. For
you see Billy it is whispered
that you aren't entirely a
monkey. I do hardly any work
Lord R. went to church this
morning & I could only do a
little in the background without
him. I am in a detestable state
of conceit - having as usual
thrown all rules to the winds
& abandoned all method & order
I enjoy chaos. It would not
be the joys of Harrogate which
would keep me from you but the
slow progress of my painting
here - but I hope to leave on
Thursday. But I get on quite
happily here. This afternoon
was spent sitting out. It is like

August when me is out of the
wind. & we were all thoroughly
lazy & happy - when to our dismay
a motor arrived with a party
from Brighton. I haven't yet
discovered their names. Beyond
that they were a Mr & Mrs W.
& two daughters, one married to
some relation of the Thynnes.
We had to be polite & give them
tea - after which Kelly & I
went for a little walk & talked
about the difference it made
to have beautiful people to live
with. Kelly is really artistic
& has very good taste. Often
occasional lapses as when she
said how beautiful you were -
but perhaps she didn't mean it.
She thought you would be spitt
if me tried to dress you
fashionably as I told her

Jessie used to try & make us -
& said you were perfect as you
are - very odd - so different from
what I always tell you - She also
thinks you choose very nice things
for your dresses. In fact I am
getting bored with you -
I wish I weren't such an ignorant
Joe come to the conclusion that
playing away is a very severe
test for one's general intelligence
& it's appalling to find how little
Joe's got - If I were to do it often
I should try to get educated.
It rather a difficult position
with Nelly dear for I have to
talk a good deal to Lord R -
& I know nothing about politics
which I suppose are what really
interest him - However he can't
but think me stupid - I have a
very high opinion of him. Do you
get any good? & what is your

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joke about hoarseness? I suppose there is one, but I don't take the allusion also Billy do remember that I don't know Greek. I suppose Hailé is Greek, isn't it? or Hindu? or monkey language? I don't want to miss any jeers so please explain. It comes after a sarcastic sentence about the attractions of Harrogate. I apparently is a sentence in itself.

Have you had any correspondence? I have had none except a line from Walter about nothing but the weather.

Well. Good bye my monkey. Give my love to Madge (Tell her I couldn't find a hearse & a housemaid (if you think of it) I thought I asked several

people - & Sybby & Maud had
no stray relations.

Don't get ill whatever you do
I haven't much faith in your
c
Your Mamma

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Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
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Monday.

Beloved Monkey.

I had your letter written on Saturday this morning. What an odd time you must be having. I expect your active mind is full of resources & doesn't ate ate mind being alone, does it? I can quite imagine you settling into more & more old gentlemanly ways — & becoming very particular about not having your own special habits disturbed! In fact I think that by the time I come I shall probably upset you so much that you will only be

able to growl at me. Perhaps
Madge will prevent you
from becoming too much
of an old fossil. I only hope
you get some food - Even
fossils want food - I get
more air than you do -
at least 4 hours a day I
should think - for I spend
the whole afternoon sitting
out & we have tea out too.

Nelly liked your stories
very much - She said she
could not criticise what was
so far above her. She could
only appreciate. She also
said that there was a great
fascination in all you wrote

& in your way of writing.
She is very anxious for you
to put all your stories together
& make a book of them as
she thinks we can tell so
much more what they are
like if we see them all
together. She also asked if
there was any man whom
you could show them to.
She suggested Mr. Porter as
whom she thought might
be able to appreciate you because
he had appreciated Turnbull.
But I said I thought the only
person you could ask was
Walter Headlam. I am sure
she has great opinions of
your Billy. Nelly never
says much but she weighs
her words.
I have had a letter from Neville

Lyttn - who writes the Friday Club C
diffr art what Granville Barker
has done for the drama! What
is that? Also he asks me
to go & stay with them This
week - which in a way I should
like to do - only they or he would
alarm me a good deal - But
I have said I can't - & as
they are not so very far from
here I think we are going
to motor over on Wednesday
afternoon & see them.
I suppose I shall go to Hampton
Sale on Tuesday & come to you
on Saturday - but of course I
shall write again.
I can't imagine what my
angel's motive was in refusing
to go out with you - He must
have been feeling homesick.
I hope he has recovered.
Take care of yourself Billy.
I am becoming [illegible] — Maud

17 Ap 1906.

Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
Uckfield.

Tuesday.

Do you really get me at all? I do you—exactly? I am left-handed? Am I? Billy? I hate nearly everybody and everything.

Beloved Billy.

First & all—you are an old & a stupid one to go on imagining me with diseases. Don't be so foolish. If you don't get letters it be cause of the Bank Holiday posts. There nothing to do with my state of health which is excellent.

I have had two letters from you today which is an unexpected luxury—but I suppose I shall suffer for it tomorrow.

As far as I know I have time on Thursday—but if I found that I just couldn't get the portrait done tomorrow which is possible—for we are going to motor to the Neville Lytton's—I should stay on another day—for it seems

17A
1906.

Gale,
Chelwood Gate,
Uckfield.

Tuesday.

Do you really get out at all? I do & can't imagine. I am out 2 hrs in 24 — 7 inclusive & the weather.

Beloved Billy.

First & all — you are an old & a stupid one to go on imagining me with diseases. Don't be so foolish. If you don't get letters it be cause of the Bank Holiday posts. There's nothing to do with my state of health which is excellent.

I have had two letters from you today which is an unexpected luxury — but I suppose I shall suffer for it tomorrow.

As far as I know I leave this on Thursday — but if I found that I just couldn't get the portrait done tomorrow which is possible — for we are going to motor to the Neville Lytton's — I should stay an another day — for it seems

a pity not to do it properly while I am about it. I'm afraid it isn't at all a work of genius for I have done very little work as you know from my previous veracious accounts of the manner of spending my day - & then Lord B. never sits, the plan of the work is this.

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Can you make head or tail of it? He is sitting at his writing table on which are strewn papers, etc. At the right is a red curtain & window sill with bits of sunlight coming through on to the curtain & table. The wall behind

him is white - It is quite small.
The worst of it is that I'm afraid
it isn't very like him. However
I hope to get it like tomorrow.
I expect it's atrociously painted
& it's not very original. So you
see I don't think much of
it - & I would give a good
deal to do him well - But
it can't be helped - I think
Nelly quite likes it.
My address at Harrogate
will be
4 Granby Road
Harrogate.
I must go there I fear -
If by chance I don't go there
till Friday I should still
come on to you on Saturday
unless I telegraphed - You
air can't be healthier than
this - I am getting red &
sunburnt & I wear my red
dress - so altogether I'm simply

to set the Thames on fire -
Of course I understand my
angel's timorousness. It's the
remembrance of being hunted
by those sheep dogs when he
was last in the north with
Thirsty - & also the being left
at Warrington. I enjoy your
descriptions of Madge & Will. I
expect Will really was pretty
good boating - better than appear
at first sight. Poor Billy, having
to play up about other people's
children! But Will is peculiar
in that way - You can't say
enough about them to please him.
I do seem to be leading rather
a social life don't I? Some odd
male is coming to tea today.
I am writing in the garden where we
seem to sit all day. I am literally
out at grass. Alligators rather
subdued. Give my love to Madge -
Why doesn't she fathom me. How interesting
Tell her it's really because I'm simplicity
itself & she can't believe it. There's nothing
to discover. Good by Billy - Good bye Wombat. Yours loving

NYPL T. PARSONS 8-2-73